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GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY INC.

Volume 36 Berkeley, California, June, 1954 Number 6

BALTIMORE ORIOLE COLLECTED IN MARTINEZ

On Sunday, February 21, 1954, at about 5 p.m., Richard Marsden, son of one of my Zoology students, discovered a Baltimore Oriole in the garden of his Martinez home. The bird was fluttering about on the ground with a broken wing. Other birds of various species were setting up quite a clamor which led young Richard to investigate. The crippled bird was placed in a cardboard box and fed in the hope that it would recover sufficiently to fend for itself. However, on the 28th it died. The bird was brought to me on March 1 in somewhat tattered and worn condition due to its injuries and confinement. I tentatively identified it as a Scott's Oriole. On May 4 during a Zoology field trip to the University of California, Dr. Alden H. Miller of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology identified the bird as a Baltimore Oriole.

In an attempt to determine whether the bird was a rare vagrant or a bird that had been kept caged by some aviarist in the Bay Region, I communicated with J. W. Steinbeck of Concord and Eric Kinsey of Marin County, both aviarists. Neither of them had any knowledge of caged Baltimore Orioles in any aviary in the Bay Region or had heard of any escapes.

A communication to the Department of Fish and Game with respect to the issuance of any permits to keep Baltimore Orioles was answered by Donald McLean, Game Biologist, as follows: "As far as we know there have been no Baltimore Orioles in any of the aviaries near your territory. There have been several sight records of Baltimore Orioles in the last 4 or 5 years in various parts of the state, particularly during the migration season, both in spring and fall; and I think probably the specimen is a good record."

Although we realize that late February is quite early for a record on migrating orioles, we offer this observation data for the consideration of ornithologists and for the record. The study skin is in the East Contra Costa Junior College collection. Ferdinand Ruth, Biological Sciences, East Contra Costa Junior College, Concord, Calif.

EUROPEAN TEAL. The February, 1954, number of AUDUBON WARBLER, Oregon Audubon Society publication, reports that a male European Teal, a first for Oregon, was collected on Sauvies Island. It might pay to look all male green-winged teal over carefully to see if any might have a horizontal white stripe above the wing instead of a vertical one in front of the wing.

APRIL TRIP TO BAY FARM ISLAND

A light breeze from the bay saved the day on April 17 for about 40 members and guests who caravaned around the Bay Farm Island area in quest of shore birds in their Easter outfits — Birds, not people! An abundance of Black-bellied Plovers in full dress, along with Avocets, Knots and thousands of "peeps" made the trip well worth while. The following 40 species were observed: Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Am. Egret, Mallard, Baldpate, Canvas-back, Scaup, Coot, Ringed (Semipalmated) Plover, Killdeer, Black-bellied Plover, Willet, Greater Yellow-legs, Knot, Least Sandpiper, Red-backed Sandpiper, Dowitcher, W. Sandpiper, Marbled Godwit, Avocet, Glaucous-winged Gull, W. Gull, Herring Gull, Calif. Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Bonaparte Gull, Forster Tern, Caspian Tern, Horned Lark, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Robin, House Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Brewer Blackbird, House Finch, Spotted Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

— LEE STALLCUP, *Leader and Historian.*

APRIL TRIP TO ARROYO MOCHO

The trip to the McCoy Ranch and adjacent areas in the Arroyo Mocho on April 25 was under sunny skies and some 42 persons attended. Nothing startling was observed but excellent views were had of a Barn Owl and the Phainopeplas were seen as usual. The following 43 species were listed for the day: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Calif. Quail, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Barn Owl, Allen Hummingbird, Red-shafted Flicker, Calif. Woodpecker, Lewis Woodpecker, Nuttall Woodpecker, W. Kingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Black Phoebe, W. Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Scrub Jay, Yellow-billed Magpie, Crow, Plain Titmouse, Bush-tit, Mockingbird, Calif. Thrasher, W. Bluebird, Cedar Waxwing, Phainopepla, Loggerhead Shrike, Black-capped (Pileolated) Warbler, House Sparrow, W. Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Bullock Oriole, Brewer Blackbird, Black-headed Grosbeak, Lazuli Bunting, House Finch, Spotted Towhee, Brown Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Lark Sparrow, Golden-crowned Sparrow.

— HARRY C. ADAMSON, *Leader and Historian.*

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GARDEN SHOW EXHIBIT. The Golden Gate Audubon Society exhibit at the California Spring Garden Show in Oakland, "A Corner of a Rustic Garden in the Redwood Area", won a Blue Ribbon First Award in the Educational and Scientific Class. It demonstrated how a garden can become a wildlife sanctuary if it provides properly spaced Food, Escape Cover, Nesting Cover and Water, the habitat features required by all birds and mammals. Four hundred and eighty-three visitors registered their interest in knowing more about Audubon activities. Three hundred and fifty-one of these live in our local area; they will receive copies of the June Gull and an invitation to join in the work of our society. This unique project owes its success to the united efforts of those members and friends who gave generously of their time, their knowledge, their plants and other materials needed in the creation of the exhibit.

IN MEMORIAM

Vaughan MacCaughey, former president of the Golden Gate Audubon Society, will be remembered for his kindliness and friendly courtesy, for his high ideals and Christian spirit of service, for his record of achievement in the natural sciences and the field of education. Following the wishes of his family, the Board of Directors has sent a memorial gift to the Berkeley Council, Boy Scouts of America, in which he had been actively interested for many years.

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OBSERVATIONS

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER, April 17, Sunset View Cemetary, (Elma Dean); LEWIS WOODPECKER, March 28, South of Livermore, (Herbert Wong); WESTERN FLYCATCHER, March 7, near Sunol, (HW); VIOLET-GREEN SWALLOW, Niles Canyon, March 7 (HW); PILEOLATED WARBLER, 3 near Sunol, March 7 (HW); BLACK-HEADED GROSBEAK, Niles Canyon, March 7 (Dan Beach, HW).

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AUDUBON CAMP OF CALIFORNIA. The camp will be held again this year at the Sugar Bowl near Donner Summit. There will be 5 sessions of two weeks each; June 27—July 10; July 11-24; July 25—Aug. 7; Aug. 8-21; and Aug. 22—Sept. 4. Registration is open to anyone interested in nature and conservation, if 18 years of age or over. For reservations and information write to National Audubon Society, 693 Sutter Street — Room 201, San Francisco, Calif.

WISCONSIN AUDUBON CAMP. A gift of land by Miss Frances Andrews of Minneapolis will make possible the establishment of an Audubon Camp in Wisconsin. The 300-acre tract near Spooner is about 250 - 300 miles from Milwaukee and Chicago, and 125 miles from Minneapolis and St. Paul. It is hoped that the camp will be ready by the 1955 summer season.

The May, 1954, number of the National Geographic Magazine has an article by Dr. Arthur A. Allen, "Split Seconds in the Lives of Birds" which contains a group of fine pictures, mostly in color, taken at 1/5000 of a second.

CALIFORNIA CARDINALS. The April 1954 issue of THE WESTERN TANAGER, monthly publication of the Los Angeles Audubon Society, has an article by Irma Rogers, "How the Cardinals Came to California". According to this article the birds were introduced by Dr. Bob Schuler of El Monte, Pastor of the largest Methodist Church in Los Angeles. In 1923 he was holding Evangelistic Meetings in the Mississippi River Delta region where many of the cardinals winter. Being a native of the Blue Ridge Mountains he missed the "red birds" in California, and made arrangements to have some of them shipped out west to him. Twenty-five were sent that year and the same number the next two years. After attempts to get the birds to nest in a huge outdoor cage over a period of three years met with only slight success, the birds were released, and have since established themscelves in the nearby river beds. Two years ago the staff of the Audubon Nature Center at El Monte made a careful count in the area and reported a total of 200.

JUNE MEETING

The June Meeting of the Golden Gate Audubon Society will be held on June 10th, at 7:30 p.m., in the Commissioners' Room of the San Francisco Public Library in Civic Center. After the usual order of business, Mrs. Charles H. Smith, of San Francisco, will give a talk on "Wild Flowers of the Grand Tetons and the High Sierra", illustrating it with kodachrome slides.

— Mrs. Budd J. Smith, *Program Chairman.*

JUNE TRIP TO MT. HAMILTON SPRINGS AND HALL'S VALLEY

On June 12 and 13 to Mt. Hamilton Springs and Hall's Valley on the headwaters of the Arroyo Hondo which is the principal source for Calaveras Reservior. There will be birding both on Sunday and on Saturday afternoon for those who wish to go on the latter day. There is a private camp ground for those who would like to spend a night under the stars. There is a fee for camping Saturday night and also for entry and parking on Sunday. Water ouzels frequent Isabel Creek on which the camp ground is located. Drive through Milpitas and Berryessa to San Jose where the road which leads to Mt. Hamilton turns off on the left. After passing Smith Creek Ranger Station drive approximately two more miles up the mountain. At the sign "Mt. Hamilton Springs" turn left and drive down hill two or three miles to DeWitt Portal's campground. If camping overnight bring necessary gear and food. Meeting time on Sunday 9:30 a.m. at the campground. Bring binoculars, lunch and interested friends, also swimming suit if desired. Leader, Peter A. Veitch.

JUNE TRIP TO STRAWBERRY CANYON

On Saturday, June 26, to Strawberry Canyon. Meet at 9 a.m. at the Botanical Gardens. From that point, after observations, we may go to the lower University Campus. Bring binoculars, lunch if desired, and interested friends. Leader, Harold G. Peterson.

— Frank A. Scott, *Chairman, Field Trips Committee.*

Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc.

Estabished January 25, 1917

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Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p. m. Joint Membership, Local and National $5.00 per year, includes Audubon Magazine. Local Membership only, $1.50 per year.

Branch of NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY, California Office — 693 Sutter Street, San Francisco 2 — PR. 5-4042